

# **WELCOME TO DISCOVERING MY MINISTRY CLASS 301**

## **STUDENT GUIDE**

### **Wood Memorial Chapel Gospel Congregation Wisdom for Life Seminar**

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Rev06-2014

**A Purpose Driven Model**  
adapted from

## **Session Number 1**

### **THE PURPOSE FOR THIS CLASS:**

*"(God) has given... pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so the body of Christ may be built up." Eph. 4: 11-12*

The Bible says:

\* The Pastors are the \_\_\_\_\_

\* The People are the \_\_\_\_\_

### **THE PRINCIPLE UNDERGIRDING THIS CLASS:**

**MY MINISTRY IS DETERMINED BY MY \_\_\_\_\_**

What God made me to *BE* determines what He intends for me to *DO*. I will understand the purpose I was created for when I understand the kind of person I am. This is the secret of knowing God's will for my life!

God is consistent in His plan for each of our lives. He would not give us inborn talents and temperaments, spiritual gifts, and all sorts of life experiences and then not use them! By reviewing and studying these factors, we can discover the ministry He has for us... the *unique* way God intends for us to serve Him.

The two results of discovering the ministry I've been shaped for are:

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

### **THE FOCUS OF THIS CLASS**

At Wood Memorial Chapel Gospel Congregation we focus on an individual approach to ministry rather than an institutional approach.

We will focus on \_\_\_\_\_ that have combined to shape the "real" you. By identifying the specific traits you possess in each of these areas, the ministry God has designed you for will become crystal clear!

## **THE GOALS OF THIS CLASS:**

1. That I will \_\_\_\_\_ my unique design (S.H.A.P.E.) for ministry and commit to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ my GOD-given gifts and abilities in serving God and others through my church family.

2. That I will \_\_\_\_\_ and begin \_\_\_\_\_ in the ministry of my church that best \_\_\_\_\_ what God made me to be.

## **WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT MINISTRY**

### **WHAT IS MINISTRY?**

**DEFINITION: (Greek "diakonos" - "to serve")**

"Ministry \_\_\_\_\_"

### **We Minister in 3 Directions**

\* To \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 13:3)

\* To \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb. 6:10)

\* To \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 5:13)

### **We Minister to 3 Areas of Needs.**

\* To people's \_\_\_\_\_ needs.

*"(God says) I was hungry and you fed me, ... thirsty and you gave me a drink... needed clothes and you clothed me... sick and you cared for me... in prison and you visited me... Whenever you have done this to the least person, you did it to me."*  
Matt. 25:35-36, 40

*"If, as my representative, you give even a cup of cold water to a little child, you will surely be rewarded."* Matt. 10:42

\* To people's \_\_\_\_\_ needs.

*"... Warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with all."*

1 Thess. 5:14

\* To people's \_\_\_\_\_ needs.  
"... God reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation." 2 Cor. 5:18

"We proclaim Christ, counseling and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ." Col 1:28, 29

## **THE PURPOSE OF MINISTRY**

"There are different kinds of service to God, but it is the same Lord we are serving. The Holy Spirit displays God's power through each of us as a means of helping the entire church. All of you together are the one Body of Christ and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it."

GOD WANTS TO USE ME TO \_\_\_\_\_

## **THE PRIORITY OF MINISTRY**

(Why should I be interested?)

### **1. I'VE BEEN \_\_\_\_\_ FOR MINISTRY**

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Eph. 2:10

### **2. I'VE BEEN \_\_\_\_\_ FOR MINISTRY!**

"It is He who saved us and chose us for his holy work, not because we deserved it but because that was his plan long before the world began..." 2 Tim. 1:9 (LB)  
"Saved to Serve!"

### **3. I'VE BEEN \_\_\_\_\_ INTO MINISTRY!**

"God, in his grace, chose me even before I was born, and called me to serve him." Gal. 1:15

"I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received." Eph. 4:1

"... You have been chosen by God himself -- you are priests of the King... you are God's very own -- all this so that you may show to others how God called you out of darkness into his wonderful light! Once you were less than nothing, now you are God's own!" 1 Peter 2:9-10

"... you will serve as holy priests..." 1 Peter 2:5

I am not who I think I am  
I am not who you think I am  
But I really am who God says I am!

## **A LIFE CHANGING TRUTH - MY PRIMARY IDENTITY:**

**I AM A \_\_\_\_\_ OF JESUS CHRIST!**

### **4. I'VE BEEN \_\_\_\_\_ FOR MINISTRY!**

*"God has given each of you some social abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God's many kinds of blessing." 1 Peter 4:10*

### **5. I'VE BEEN \_\_\_\_\_ FOR MINISTRY!**

*"(Jesus said) All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples..." Matt. 28:18-19*

*"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors..." 2 Cor. 5:20*

### **6. I'M \_\_\_\_\_ TO MINISTRY!**

*"(Jesus) Your attitude must be like my own, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve..." Matt. 20:28*

*"(To Archippus) Take heed to the ministry you've received from the Lord and fulfill it." Col. 4:17*

### **7. I'M TO BE \_\_\_\_\_ FOR MINISTRY**

*"God gave pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry so that the body of Christ may be built up..." Eph. 4:11-12*

### **8. THE BODY OF CHRIST \_\_\_\_\_ MY MINISTRY!**

*"All of you together are the one body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it." 1 Cor. 12:27*

Ministry always functions in the context of the \_\_\_\_\_

*"When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said, 'The harvest is great but the workers are few. Ask the Lord to send our workers into his harvest field.'" Matt. 9:36-37*

**9. I AM \_\_\_\_\_ FOR MY MINISTRY!**

*"So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God." Romans 14:12*

The Parable of the Talents: Matt. 25:14-30

**10. I WILL BE \_\_\_\_\_ FOR MY MINISTRY!**

*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward." Col. 3:23, 24*

*"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your Master's happiness!" Matt. 25:23*

**VI. THE PROCEDURE HOW TO DISCOVER MY MINISTRY**

(ROMANS 12:1-8)

**STEP 1: DEDICATE \_\_\_\_\_**

*"I urge you... to offer yourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God -- which is your spiritual worship." (vs. 1)*

**STEP 2: ELIMINATE \_\_\_\_\_**

*"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (vs. 2)*

**STEP 3: EVALUATE \_\_\_\_\_**

*"Don't cherish exaggerated ideas of yourself or your importance, but try to have a sane estimate of your capabilities by the light of the faith God has given to you. (vs. 3)*

**STEP 4: COOPERATE \_\_\_\_\_**

*"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one Body and each member belongs to all the others." (vs. 5)*

**Implications from Paul's Anatomy Lesson:**

(See also 1 Cor. 12:1-31)

- \* Every member is a minister in Christ's body.
- \* Every member has a different function.
- \* Every member's ministry is important.
- \* Every member belongs to the others.

*"Each of us is a part of the one Body of Christ... The eye can never say to the hand, 'I don't need you.' The head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you.' And some of the parts that seem weakest and least important are really the most necessary! ... So God*

*put the body together in such a way that extra honor and care are given to those parts that might otherwise seem less important." 1 Cor. 12:13, 21-22, 24*

## **STEP 5: ACTIVATE**

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*"We have different gifts, according to the grace God has given us: prophesy... serving... teaching... encouraging... contributing... leadership... showing mercy..." Romans 12:6-8*

## **DISCOVERING HOW GOD HAS SHAPED ME FOR MINISTRY**

### **HOW HAS GOD SHAPED ME?**

*"Your hands formed and shaped me..." Job 10:8*

God has been molding and shaping you for ministry since you were born. In fact, God started uniquely shaping even before you were born!

*"Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! It is amazing to think about. Your workmanship is marvelous... You were there while I was being formed... You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe." Psalm 139:14-16 (LB)*

1. I was \_\_\_\_\_ for a purpose.
2. I am \_\_\_\_\_!
3. I am \_\_\_\_\_.

*"What right do you have, a human being, to cross-examine God? The pot has no right to say to the potter: Why did you make me this shape? A potter can do what he likes with the clay!" Rom. 9:20-21*

In Ministry... Function follows Form!

## **MINISTRY IS DETERMINED BY SEVERAL FACTORS**

*"There are different kinds of SPIRITUAL GIFTS but the same Spirit gives them. There are different WAYS OF SERVING, but the same Lord is served. There are different ABILITIES to perform service, but the same God gives ability to everyone for their service. The Spirit's presence is shown IN SOME WAY in each one, for the good of all." 1 Cor. 12:4-7*

## **MY S.H.A.P.E. WILL DETERMINE MY MINISTRY**

**S** \_\_\_\_\_

*"... Each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that." 1 Cor. 7:7*

### **WHAT AM I GIFTED TO DO?**

**H** \_\_\_\_\_

*"God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose..." Rev. 17:7*

*"For it is God who works in you, inspiring both the will and the deed, for his own chosen purpose!" Phil. 2:13*

### **WHAT DO I LOVE TO DO?**

**A** \_\_\_\_\_

*"There are different abilities to perform service..." 1 Cor. 12:6*

*"I (God)... have given him \_\_\_\_\_."*  
*Exodus 31:3*

*"... our \_\_\_\_\_ comes from God."*  
*2 Cor. 3:5*

### **WHAT NATURAL TALENTS AND SKILLS DO I HAVE?**

**P** \_\_\_\_\_

*"No one can really know what anyone else is thinking or what he is really like, except that person himself." 1 Cor. 2:11*

### **WHERE DOES MY PERSONALITY BEST SUIT ME TO SERVE?**

**E** \_\_\_\_\_

### **\* WHAT \_\_\_\_\_ EXPERIENCES HAVE I HAD?**

*"There has been enough time for you to be teachers -- BUT you still need to be taught... (you are) without any **experience** in the matter of right and wrong."*  
*Heb. 5:12-13*

**\* WHAT \_\_\_\_\_ EXPERIENCES HAVE I HAD?**

*"Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways."*

Prov. 20:30

*"God helps us in our troubles, \_\_\_\_\_ who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God."*

2 Cor. 1:4

**\* WHAT \_\_\_\_\_ EXPERIENCES HAVE I HAD?**

*"Always remember what you have learned. You \_\_\_\_\_ is your life -- guard it well!"* Prov. 4:13

**\* WHAT \_\_\_\_\_ EXPERIENCES HAVE I HAD?**

*"Because of \_\_\_\_\_, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel..."* 2 Cor. 9:13

Your ministry will be most effective and fulfilling when you are using your GIFTS and ABILITIES in the area of HEART'S DESIRE in a way that best expresses your PERSONALITY and EXPERIENCE!

## **SUCCESS IS DOING WHAT GOD MADE ME TO DO!**

### **HOW PAUL'S MINISTRY WAS "S.H.A.P.E.d"**

#### **PAUL'S SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

*"And of this gospel I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher."*

2 Tim. 1:11

#### **PAUL'S HEART**

*"My constant ambition has been to preach the gospel where the name of Christ was previously unknown, and to avoid building on another man's foundation."* Rom. 15:20

*"For God, who was at work in the ministry of Peter as an apostle to the Jews, was also at work in my ministry as an apostle to the Gentiles."* Gal 2:8

*"Life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus..."* Acts 20:24

#### **PAUL'S ABILITY**

*"... Paul went to see them, and stayed and worked with them, because \_\_\_\_\_, just as they did. He \_\_\_\_\_ in the synagogues every Sabbath, trying to convince both Jews and Gentiles." Acts 18:2-4*

## **PAUL'S PERSONALITY**

*"For you have heard of my past... I persecuted the church with fanatical zeal... and did my best to destroy it... I was ahead of most of my contemporaries in the Jewish religion, and had a boundless enthusiasm..." Gal. 1:13-14*

## **PAUL'S EXPERIENCES**

### **HIS SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES**

- \* Watching Stephen be stone (Acts 8:1)
- \* Conversion on the Damascus Road (Acts 9:1-20)
- \* 3 years maturing in Arabia (Gal. 1:18)
- \* Special vision from God (2 Cor. 12:2-7)

### **HIS PAINFUL EXPERIENCES**

*"... I have been in prison more times... near death often... been whipped five times with 39 lashes by the Jews and three times by the Romans... once stoned.... I've been in three shipwrecks... and once spent 24 hours in the water... In my travels I've been in danger from floods... robbers... enemies... wild animals and false friends... I've served long hours without sleep or food or shelter or even clothing..." 2 Cor. 11:23-27*

*"To keep me from becoming conceited because of these great revelations, I was given a **thorn in my flesh**, a messenger from Satan, to torment me." 2 Cor. 12:7*

### **PAUL'S EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES**

*"I received my training at the feet of Gamaliel, and I was schooled in the strictest observance of our fathers' Law." Acts 22:3*

### **PAUL'S MINISTRY EXPERIENCES**

**Read the Book of Acts!**

## **IDENTIFYING MY UNIQUE S.H.A.P.E.**

We've prepared and adapted several tools to help you discover and think through the five factors that make up who you are. You will complete these on your own (homework) *before* you meet with the Pastor or the Baptism and Discipleship Team Leader. Don't lose this **personal profile**. Fill it out as we go through this class. You will turn it in at the end of this entire CLASS 301.

\* "\_\_\_\_\_ YOUR GIFT" will give you an overview of spiritual gifts and help you identify which ones you may have been given by God.

\* "\_\_\_\_\_ YOUR HEARTBEAT" will help you clarify what you really love to do.

\* "\_\_\_\_\_ YOUR ABILITIES" will help you appreciate the natural talents and vocational skills you have.

\* "\_\_\_\_\_ YOUR PERSONALITY" will help you see how your God given temperament can best be used in ministry.

\* "\_\_\_\_\_ YOUR EXPERIENCES" will help you review your history to discover how God has prepared you for a unique ministry that only you can fulfill.

## REMEMBER:

1. Have fun! These are not "tests"! There are no right or wrong answers. The purpose is to show how you are a unique blend!
2. Each one is self-evaluating. No one is "rating" you on this. We're interested in your feelings, not others. However, it may be helpful to ask for additional input from those closest to you *after* you've filled in your own responses.
3. The value of each of these tools will vary depending on your age, how long you've been a Christian, your background, your honesty, and how much time and serious thinking you're willing to invest in them!
4. AS YOU COMPLETE EACH TOOL, TRANSFER YOUR RESULTS TO THE FORM CALLED "MY MINISTRY PROFILE". YOU WILL BRING THIS PROFILE WITH YOU TO YOUR INTERVIEW WITH the Pastor or a designated personnel on the Chapel Staff

## WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## A Condensed Overview

*"Now about spiritual gifts I do not want you to be ignorant." 1 Cor. 12:1*

**A SPIRITUAL GIFT:** Is a special ability, given by the Holy Spirit to every believer at their conversion, to be used to minister to others and therefore build up the Body of Christ

## 10 TRUTHS

1. Only \_\_\_\_\_ have spiritual gifts. 1 Cor. 2:14
2. Every Christian has at least \_\_\_\_\_ gift. 1 Cor. 7:7
3. No one receives \_\_\_\_\_ the gifts. 1 Cor. 12:27-30
4. No single gift is given to \_\_\_\_\_. 1 Cor. 12:29-30
5. You can't \_\_\_\_\_ a spiritual gift. Eph. 4:7
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ decides what gifts I get. 1 Cor. 12:11
7. The gifts I'm given are \_\_\_\_\_. Rom. 11:29
8. I am to \_\_\_\_\_ the gifts God gives me. 1 Tim. 4:14
9. It's a sin to \_\_\_\_\_ the gifts God gave me. 1 Cor. 4:1-2 Mt. 25:14-30
10. Using my gifts \_\_\_\_\_ God and \_\_\_\_\_ me. John 15:8

## Session Number 2

## **THE PURPOSE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

### **A. NOT FOR MY BENEFIT, BUT \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"Each one of you, as a good manager of God's different gifts, must use for the \_\_\_\_\_, the spiritual gift he has received from God." 1 Peter 4:10*

*"The Holy Spirit displays God's power through each of us as a means of helping the entire church." 1 Cor. 12:7*

### **B. TO PRODUCE \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_ IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY.**

*"It was He who gave gifts to men... to build up the Body of Christ so we shall all come together to that oneness in our faith... and become mature... Then we shall no longer be children, carried by the waves and blown about by every shifting wind..." Eph. 4:11, 13-14*

## **CAUTIONS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

1. Don't confuse gifts with natural talents.
2. Don't confuse gifts with the Fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22-23
  - \* "Fruit" shows my Maturity.
  - \* "Gifts" show my Ministry.
3. Don't confuse gifts with Christian roles.
4. Be aware of the *"gift projection"* tendency. (Expecting others to serve the way you do and have similar results)
5. Don't feel my gift makes me superior to others. 1 Cor. 12:21
6. Realize that using my gifts without love is worthless! *"I may be able to speak the languages of men and even of angels... I may have the gift of inspired preaching... I may have all knowledge... and all the faith to move mountains -- but if I have not love, I am nothing... it does no good."* 1 Cor. 13:1-3
7. Recognize that I have both a *Primary* and a *Secondary* ministry in my church:

\* My *PRIMARY MINISTRY* commitment should be in the area where I am

\_\_\_\_\_

\* My *SECONDARY MINISTRY* includes serving in any other area of the Body where I am \_\_\_\_\_.

## HOW TO DISCOVER YOUR GIFT

Get Started!

**S** \_\_\_\_\_

**T** \_\_\_\_\_  
Experiment with different areas of service

**A** \_\_\_\_\_  
Use the "unwrapping My Gift" Tool

**R** \_\_\_\_\_  
Ask others what gifts they see in me.

**T** \_\_\_\_\_  
Take advantage of all training opportunities in the church

### Three Ways God Wants You to Use Your Gifts

1. Through an Ongoing Ministry
2. Through Short-Term Projects
3. Through Spontaneous Situations

**IT'S EASIER TO DISCOVER YOUR GIFT THROUGH MINISTRY THAN  
TO DISCOVER YOUR MINISTRY THROUGH YOUR GIFT**

## UNWRAPPING MY GIFTS

The Bible does not lock us into tight restrictions as to the number of spiritual gifts, or even their definitions. The four major lists of gifts are found in Romans 12:-8, 1 Cor. 12:1-11, 27-31, and Eph. 4:11-12, 1 Peter 4:9-11 but there are other passages that mention or illustrate gifts not included in these lists.

All gifts are given to help the church fulfill its purposes.

As you read through this list, check off your initial impression concerning yourself by writing the following three options;

**\*I have this gift**

**\*I may have this gift**

**\*I don't have this gift**

. Remember you can have many gifts.

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## **GIFTS THAT COMMUNICATE GOD'S WORD**

(to both unbelievers and believers)

### **PREACHING ("Prophecy") 1 Cor. 14:3**

The ability to publicly communicate God's word in an inspired way that convinces unbeliever and both challenges and comforts believers. The ability to persuasively declare God's will.

### **EVANGELISM Acts 8:26-40**

The ability to communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ to unbelievers in a positive, non-threatening way. The ability to sense opportunities to share Christ and lead people to respond with faith.

### **MISSIONS 1 Cor. 9:19-23, Acts 13:2-3**

The ability to adapt to a different culture in order to reach unbelievers and help believers from that culture.

### **APOSTLE Rom. 15:20**

The ability to start new churches and oversee their development.

## **GIFTS THAT EDUCATE GOD'S PEOPLE**

### **TEACHING Eph. 4:12-13**

The ability to educate God's people by clearly explaining and applying the Bible in a way that causes them to learn. The ability to equip and train other believers for ministry.

### **ENCOURAGEMENT ("Exhortation") Acts 14:22**

The ability to motivate God's people to apply and **act on** Biblical principles, especially

when they are discouraged or wavering in their faith. The ability to bring out the best in others and challenge them to develop their potential.

### **WISDOM 1 Cor. 2:1, 6-16**

The ability to understand God's perspective on life situations and share those insights in a simple, understandable way. The ability to explain what to do and how to do it.

### **DISCERNMENT 1 John 4:1-6**

The ability to distinguish right from wrong, truth from error, and to give an immediate evaluation based on God's Word. The ability to discern whether the source of an experience is Satan, self, or God's Spirit

### **KNOWLEDGE Daniel 1:17**

The ability to discover, collect, analyze, and organize information that is vital to individual believers or the entire church family. The ability to comprehend a large amount of information and provide it when needed for effective decision-making.

## **GIFTS THAT DEMONSTRATE GOD'S LOVE**

### **SERVICE Acts 6:1-7**

The ability to recognize unmet needs in the church family, and take the initiative to provide practical assistance quickly, cheerfully, and without a need for recognition

### **MERCY Luke 10:30-37**

The ability to detect hurt and empathize with those who are suffering in the church family. The ability to provide compassionate and cheerful support to those experiencing distress, crisis, or pain.

### **HOSPITALITY 1 Peter 4:9-10**

The ability to make others, especially strangers, feel warmly welcomed, accepted, and comfortable in the church family. The ability to coordinate factors that promote fellowship

### **PASTORING ("Shepherding") 1 Peter 5:2-4**

The ability to care for the spiritual needs of a group of believers and equip them for ministry. The ability to nurture a small group in spiritual growth and assume responsibility for their welfare.

### **GIVING 2 Cor. 8:1-7**

The ability to generously contribute material resources and/or money beyond the 10% tithe so that the Body may grow and be strengthened. The ability to earn and manage money so it may be given to support the ministry of others.

## **GIFTS THAT CELEBRATE GOD'S PRESENCE**

(Worship or prayer-related gifts)

## **MUSIC Psalm 150**

The ability to celebrate God's presence through music, either vocal or instrumental, and to lead the church family in worship.

## **ARTS & CRAFTS Exodus 31:3-11**

The ability to build, maintain, or beautify the place of worship for God's glory. The ability to express worship through a variety of art forms.

## **4 Prayer-Related Gifts**

### **INTERCESSION Col. 1:9-12**

The ability to pray for the needs of others in the church family over extended periods of time on a regular basis. The ability to persist in prayer and not be discouraged until the answer arrives.

### **HEALING James 5:14-16**

The ability to pray in faith specifically for people who need physical, emotional, or spiritual healing and see God answer. The ability to sense when God is prompting you to pray this kind of prayer.

### **MIRACLES Mark 11:23-24**

The ability to pray in faith specifically for God's supernatural intervention into an impossible situation and see God answer. The ability to sense when God is prompting you to pray this kind of prayer.

### **\*PRAYING WITH MY SPIRIT ("Tongues/Interpretation") 1 Cor. 14:13-15**

The ability to pray in a language understood only by God or one who is given the gift of interpretation at that time.

### **\*CAUTIONS ABOUT THIS GIFT**

This gift caused such a problem in the Corinthian church; Paul had to write an entire chapter (1 Cor. 14) of guidelines.

#### **1. It is for personal edification, not for the whole church.**

*"He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who preaches edifies the church."*  
1 Cor. 14:4

#### **2. We are to focus on building up others, not ourselves.**

*"Unless you speak intelligible words... you will just be speaking into the air... try to excel in the gifts that build up the church."* 1 Cor. 14:9 & 12

#### **3. It confuses unbelievers in the service.**

*"... if some unbelievers come in, will they not say you are out of your mind?"*

1 Cor. 14:23

#### **4. Ideally, it is not meant to be used in the worship service.**

*"In the church, I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousands words in a tongue. Brothers, stop thinking like children!" 1 Cor. 14:19-20*

*"The gift of speaking God's message should be under the speaker's control, because God does not want us to be in disorder, but in harmony and peace." 1 Cor. 14:32-33*

### **MONITORING MY HEARTBEAT**

#### **Definition: "HEART"**

- a. "The organ that pumps your blood"
- b. "Your emotional constitution or disposition"
- c. "The vital force or driving impulse"

The Bible uses the term "heart" to represent the center of your motivation, desires, and inclinations.

*"Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart."*  
(Ps. 37:4, etc.)

#### **My heart determines...**

##### **\* Why I \_\_\_\_ the things I do**

*"The mouth speaks what the heart is full of" Matt. 12:34*

##### **\* Why I \_\_\_\_ the way I do**

*"The Word of God... examines the thoughts and motives of the heart." Heb. 4:12*

##### **\* Why I \_\_\_\_ the way I do**

*"Guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life." Pr. 4:23*

### **MY HEART IS THE \_\_\_\_\_ ME!**

Physiologically, each of us has a unique heartbeat. Each person has a slightly different pattern. Likewise, God has given each of us a unique emotional "heartbeat" that races when we encounter activities, subjects, or circumstances that interest us. We instinctively feel deeply about some things and not about others.

This God-given motivation serves as an internal guidance system for our lives. It determines what your interests are, and what will bring you the most satisfaction and fulfillment. It also motivates you to pursue certain activities, subjects, and environments.

### **WHY HAS GOD GIVEN EACH PERSON A \_\_\_\_\_ "HEARTBEAT"?**

*"God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose..." Rev. 17:17*

God had a purpose in giving you your inborn interests. In fact, your emotional heartbeat reveals a very important key to understanding God's design and intention for your life.

The Bible makes very clear that your heart was designed by God, but you make the choice to use it for good or evil, for selfish purposes or for service.

You may have...

*"... selfish ambition in your heart..." James 3:14*

Or you may...

*"... Serve the Lord with all your heart." 1 Sam. 12:20*

*"... Do the will of God from your heart." Eph. 6:6*

How can I do God's will and serve God's purpose?

By letting my heartbeat motivate me for *ministry!*

**YOU CAN DO GOD'S WILL AND SERVE GOD'S PURPOSE BY LETTING YOUR HEARTBEAT \_\_\_\_\_ YOU FOR MINISTRY!**

## **TAKING A SPIRITUAL EKG**

If you are like most people, you have never taken time to sort out and identify the things you are good at and motivated to accomplish. As a result, it is unlikely that you use these talents as completely or effectively as you could. The key to understanding your heartbeat is to look at your past accomplishments.

This exercise is adapted from the book Finding A Job You Can Love by Ralph Mattson & Arthur Miller (Nelson, 1982). We *highly recommend* that you read this book!

## **STEP 1: LIST AND DESCRIBE YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE CHILDHOOD**

- \* "I put on plays for the neighborhood kids with costumes, props, etc. We transformed the shed in the back of our house into a fairyland with lighting effects, decorations and princesses."
- \* "I started a Kool-aid stand in the fourth grade and expanded it into three different stands. It was fun and I made money!"
- \* "I had a job as a printer's assistant and developed a method of cutting stereotypes which was faster and more accurate."
- \* "I ran for president and won sometimes when I was in school."
- \* "I have always liked to build things. Before I got married, I completely rebuilt the little apartment I was living in."

- \* "I successfully led protest marches against toxic wastes in my hometown and got local TV coverage."
- \* "I set a goal to read fifteen books over the summer and I did."

What to Include:

- \* Accomplishments at home, school, work, etc.
- \* Things you \_\_\_\_\_ doing.
- \* Things you believe you \_\_\_\_\_.
- \* Give specific details about what you did.
- \* Forget what other people think about it.

1. Remember, you're recalling things you *enjoyed doing* and *did well* (accomplishments), not simply pleasant experiences

BAD EXAMPLE: Had a great vacation in Canada

GOOD: Took some stunning photos during my vacation

2. You do not have to cover every year of your life. Just focus on what \_\_\_\_\_ are the highlights of things you've done.

## **MY HIGHLIGHTS OF THINGS I DID WELL AND ENJOYED**

### **DOING DURING MY GRADE SCHOOL YEARS**

1.

2.

### **AS A TEENAGER**

1.

2.

3.

### **IN COLLEGE OR EARLY 20'S**

1.

2.

3.

4.

### **IN MY "THIRTYSOMETHING" YEARS**

1.

2.

3.

4.

**COMPLETE UP TO YOUR PRESENT:**

1.

2.

3.

4.

The more you can list the better. Get another sheet of paper!

**STEP 2: DISCOVER THE MOTIVATED DIRECTION OF YOUR HEART**

Examine your achievements for a common motivational thread. You might find a key

phrase repeated. See if you can match one of the "heartbeats" listed below as samples:

Remember these are ALL God-given motivations. They are only sinful when used selfishly. Every one of these can be used in effective ministry. Don't be embarrassed to identify a basic heartbeat that doesn't *seem* spiritual! Almost every one of these can be identified in the ministry of one of the twelve Apostles!

## **I LOVE TO ...**

**DESIGN AND DEVELOP** -- I love to make something out of nothing. I enjoy getting something started from scratch.

**PIONEER** -- I love to test out and try new concepts. I am not afraid to risk failure.

**ORGANIZE** -- I love to bring order out of chaos. I enjoy organizing something that is already started.

**OPERATE / MAINTAIN** -- I love to efficiently maintain some things that is already organized.

**SERVE OR HELP** -- I love to assist others in their responsibility. I enjoy helping others succeed.

**ACQUIRE AND POSSESS** -- I love to shop, collect, or obtain things. I enjoy getting the highest quality for the best price.

**EXCEL** -- I love to be the best and make my team the best. I enjoy setting and attaining the highest standard.

**INFLUENCE** -- I love to convert people to my way of thinking. I enjoy shaping the attitudes and behaviors of others.

**PERFORM** -- I love to be on stage and receive the attention of others. I enjoy being in the limelight.

**IMPROVE** -- I love to make things better. I enjoy taking something that someone else has designed or started and improve it.

**REPAIR** -- I love to fix what is broken or change what is out of date.

**LEAD AND BE IN CHARGE** -- I love to lead the way, oversee and supervise. I enjoy determining how things will be done.

**PERSEVERE** -- I love to see things to completion. I enjoy persisting at something until it is finished.

**FOLLOW THE RULES** -- I love to operate by policies and procedures. I enjoy meeting the expectations of an organization or boss.

**PREVAIL** -- I love to fight for what is right and oppose what is wrong. I enjoy overcoming injustice.

You should be able to support your choice with examples from your achievements.

EXAMPLE:

I feel the basic motivation God put in my heart is to "ACQUIRE/POSSESS": My history demonstrates this:

- \* I purchased my first car at age 16.
- \* I've collected s collection of rare stamps.
- \* I've built up a large cash reserve
- \* I've acquired options on three properties.

*\*DID YOU FIND THE BASIC MOTIVATIONAL DIRECTION OF YOUR HEART IN THIS LIST?  
WRITE IT ON YOUR PERSONAL PROFILE:*

# Session Number 3

## APPLYING MY ABILITIES

*"There are different abilities to perform service." 1 Cor. 12:6*

*"I (God)... have given him skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of crafts..." Exodus 31:3*

One of the most common excuses people give for not getting involved in ministry is, "I just don't have any abilities to offer." Nothing could be further from the truth. The key is *matching* your abilities with the right ministry!

## FIVE MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT ABILITIES

(Skills and Talents)

- 1. MYTH: People aren't born with skills. All skills must be learned by experience.**
- 2. MYTH: Those skills which must be learned, are earned primarily in the classroom.**
- 3. MYTH: If you have certain abilities, you will be very aware that you have them.**
- 4. MYTH: Skills that I use at work are only usable in that environment. I couldn't use them in ministry.**
- 5. MYTH: Most people only have a few abilities.**

## HOW TO DISCOVER YOUR MOTIVATED ABILITIES

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## **26 SPECIALIZED ABILITIES**

Entertaining ability: \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiting ability: \_\_\_\_\_

Interview ability: \_\_\_\_\_

Researching ability: \_\_\_\_\_

Artistic ability: \_\_\_\_\_

Graphics ability: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluating ability: \_\_\_\_\_

Planning ability: \_\_\_\_\_

Managing ability: \_\_\_\_\_

Counseling ability: \_\_\_\_\_

Teaching ability: \_\_\_\_\_

Writing ability: \_\_\_\_\_

Editing ability: \_\_\_\_\_

Promoting ability: \_\_\_\_\_

Repairing ability: \_\_\_\_\_

Feeding ability: \_\_\_\_\_

Recall ability: \_\_\_\_\_

Mechanical operating ability: \_\_\_\_\_

Resourceful ability: \_\_\_\_\_

Counting ability: \_\_\_\_\_

**Classifying ability:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Public Relations ability:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Welcoming ability:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Composing ability:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Landscaping ability:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Decorating ability:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*List your specialized abilities on your PERSONAL PROFILE

## **PLUGGING-IN YOUR PERSONALITY**

In the box below, write your name.


Now write your name with your opposite hand:

### **WHAT HAPPENED?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

## **HOW DO I SEE MYSELF?**

\_\_\_\_\_ is an outgoing person or a very social person.

\_\_\_\_\_ is not so outgoing person or a person tend not to speak first.

### **Introverted**

3    2    1 - 1    2  
Strong   mild   mild

### **Extroverted**

3  
Strong

### **Thinker**

3    2    1 - 1    2  
Strong   mild   mild

### **Feeler**

3  
Strong

### **Routine**

3    2    1 - 1    2  
Strong   mild   mild

### **Variety**

3  
Strong

### **Self-Controlled**

3    2    1 - 1    2  
Strong   mild   mild

### **Self-Expressive**

3  
Strong

### **Cooperative**

3    2    1 - 1    2  
Strong   mild   mild

### **Competitive**

3  
Strong

*\* RECORD YOUR RESPONSES ON YOUR PERSONAL PROFILE*

## **EXAMINING MY EXPERIENCES**

*"And we know that in ALL things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Rom. 8:27*

*"Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel" Phil. 1:12*

One of the most overlooked factors in determining the ministry God has for me is my past experience, particularly my hurts and problems I've overcome with God's help. Since our greatest life messages come out of our weaknesses, not our strengths, we should pay close attention to what we've learned in the "school of hard knocks".

## **GOD NEVER WASTES A HURT!**

HE WANTS YOU TO BE OPEN TO MINISTERING TO PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING THROUGH WHAT YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN THROUGH!

*"(God)... Wonderfully comforts and strengthens us in our hardships and trials. And why does he do this? So when others are troubled, needing our sympathy and encouragement, we can pass on to them the same help and comfort God has given us!" 2 Cor. 1:3-4*

## **\*\*ON YOUR MINISTRY PROFILE RECORD THESE EXPERIENCES:**

### **\* Your spiritual Experiences**

Meaningful decisions/times with God

### **\* Your Painful Experiences**

Problems, hurts, trials-that have taught you

### **\* Your Educational Experiences**

What were your favorite subjects in school

### **\* Your Ministry Experiences**

How have you served in the past

# **SERVING THROUGH WOOD MEMORIAL CHAPEL** **GOSPEL CONGREGATION**

## **THE WOOD MEMORIAL CHAPEL GOSPEL MINISTRY STATEMENT** **(Our Philosophy of Ministry)**

### **WE BELIEVE...ABOUT MINISTRY**

\* Salvation in Jesus Christ automatically includes a call to ministry. Every believer is created, saved, called, gifted, authorized, and commanded to minister.

\* \_\_\_\_\_ is the heart of the Christian life (Matt. 20:28)

\* \_\_\_\_\_ follows form in ministry. How God made me determines what He intends for me to do. God has uniquely shaped each individual for a specific ministry.

\* God has given all His children gifts that can be developed and used in ministry. Everyone is a "10" in some area. Everyone has something to offer. Developing and using your gifts is an act of good \_\_\_\_\_ and of \_\_\_\_\_.

\* You discover your gifts through ministry, instead of discovering your ministry by identifying your gifts.

\* The evidence of the right match between my "*shape*" and my ministry is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

\* Membership and maturity are prerequisites to ministry. Therefore we require class attendance and commitment to these two areas before serving through Saddleback.

### **ABOUT THE BODY OF CHRIST**

\* God intends for ministry to be performed through the context of the local church. Membership includes a commitment to ministry.

\* The Holy Spirit has provided our church body with all the spiritually gifted people needed to do everything He wants done. Our task is to discover, enlist, train, and support these people in ministry.

\* The church is to operate on the basis of spiritual gifts, rather than elected offices. We do not \_\_\_\_\_ people to ministries. "*A man's gift makes room for him.*" Prov. 18:16

\* The church is a \_\_\_\_\_, not a business, an \_\_\_\_\_, not an organization. Therefore we streamline the structure in order to maximize ministry and minimize maintenance. We don't bury ministries under a bunch of procedures.

\* The mobilization of every member as a minister is the key to balanced growth of the church.

\* The greater good of the whole body must always take priority over the needs of any single ministry. There is no place for \_\_\_\_\_ in God's family.

## **ABOUT THE ROLE OF PASTORS**

\* The equipping of the members for ministry is the number one priority of the pastoral staff. The people are the ministers and the pastors are the administrators.  
(Eph 4:11-12)

\* The objective of the Baptism and Discipleship Team is to \_\_\_\_\_  
an army of ministers who are maximizing their unique gifts, heart, abilities, personality and experiences in a meaningful place of service through our church.

\* Every member deserves personal assistance in discovering a meaningful place of service. We value the individual more than the ministry.

\* Those involved in ministry are entitled to competent leadership from the team leaders. Therefore, every ministry leader will be committed to the success of that ministry.

\* Each team leader is to provide training, encouragement, guidance, feedback and resources to the ministers under his or her care.

## **ABOUT ACCOUNTABILITY**

\* We become what we are committed to. Therefore we encourage growth in commitment to Christ and His Church.

\* Everything rises or falls on \_\_\_\_\_. No ministry can exceed the commitment of those leading it.

\* One mark of maturing church is that the standards for leadership are raised every year.

\* There must be periodic reviews of all ministries. We do what is inspected, not just what is expected. Best intentions are not enough.

## ABOUT TRAINING

\* Every leader is a \_\_\_\_\_. The moment you stop learning, you stop leading.

\* We emphasize on the job training more than pre-service training. We learn best by doing. We delegate to develop people.

## ON DIVERSITY OF MINISTRY

\* We have unity without uniformity. We believe diversity in ministries simply illustrates the unique giftedness of individuals.

\* Any member who has completed Class 301 may start a new ministry with the assistance of the Pastor and designated Clergy.

\* Every ministry must fill one or more of the basic purposes of the church or we don't do it.

\* Ministries have \_\_\_\_\_. If a ministry isn't meeting a need anymore, we will give it a decent burial. There are no sacred cows!

\* Most ministries require commitment for certain time but we allow people to change ministries gracefully, without guilt. We don't lock people in permanently.

\* Only official ministries of Wood Memorial Chapel Gospel Congregation, under staff supervision are given publicity space in the bulletin.

\* Your *primary* ministry commitment should be in the area where you're \_\_\_\_\_. Your *secondary* ministry includes serving in any other area of the body where you are \_\_\_\_\_.

\* You are not ready for ministry until you are willing to serve *anywhere*.

## ABOUT PERFORMANCE

\* We expect excellence in ministry, not \_\_\_\_\_. Excellence is doing your best. God deserves our best.

\* We encourage creativity and innovation in ministry, which assumes mistakes will be made. "No mistakes" means you're not growing or trying anything new. We have no "failures" in ministry at Wood Memorial Chapel Gospel Congregation, only "experiments that didn't work!"

\* A failed project does not mean a failed person. There are no "wrong" people, only "right" people in the wrong ministry.

## **Previewing the Opportunities**

**Wood Memorial Chapel Gospel Congregation Ministry Opportunities:  
Take a look into the Bulletin**

**There may be a ministry we don't have but need and you might be the person to start it. See, the Pastor if that is the case.**

# DEVELOPING A HEART TO SERVE

## MY MINISTRY COVENANT

Having committed myself to membership and the habits essential for spiritual maturity, and agreeing with Wood Memorial Chapel Gospel Congregation's Ministry Statement, I commit to...

- \* Discover my unique *shape* for ministry and serve in the area that best expresses what God made me to be.
- \* Prepare for ministry by participating in the various training opportunities
- \* Demonstrate a servant's heart by serving in secondary ministries as the Body needs me.
- \* Cooperate with other ministries and place the greater good of the whole Body over the needs of my ministry.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Home Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_ is a commissioned minister of Jesus Christ through the Wood Memorial Chapel Gospel Congregation is entrusted with the related responsibilities and privileges.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Instructor's Name/Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# **WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?**

- 1. COMMIT TO THE MINISTRY COVENANT.**
- 2. COMPLETE YOUR S.H.A.P.E. SELF-EVALUATION.**
- 3. SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PASTOR.** He may designate someone to do the interview or do it himself.
- 4. You will be directed in your interview to CONTACT THE Team Leader OVER THE MINISTRIES YOU'VE SELECTED FOR POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT.**

## **BEGIN SERVING!**

- 6. START ATTENDING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE CHURCH**
- 7. ENHANCE YOUR MATURITY AND MINISTRY THROUGH OTHER C.L.A.S.S. COURSES.**

## **Go On To Home Base!**

### **An Overview of C.L.A.S.S (Christian Life and Service Seminars)**

**100 Level Seminars:**

To lead people to Christ and membership at Wood Memorial Gospel Congregation

**200 Level Seminars:**

To grow people to spiritual maturity

**300 Level Seminars:**

To equip people with the skills they need for ministry

**400 Level Seminars:**

To enlist people to the worldwide mission of sharing Christ